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A method of setting up a communication procedure between instances, one of which is a protocol tester that uses the method, includes the steps of selecting the instances, selecting a protocol layer for the communication procedure, selecting abstract communication interfaces for the protocol layer; selecting communication data and automatically setting up the communication procedure on the basis of the results of the selecting steps. Any of the selecting steps may be performed graphically, and parameters selected are assigned description files that are used in the setting up step.